

VZCZCXRO8643  
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHGO #0413 1880450  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 070450Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9199  
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2353  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2118  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2198  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0126  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5592  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0613  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9188  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6766  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4575  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2569  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000413

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/06/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN DEMARCHE IN BURMA TO ENCOURAGE SYG-ASSK  
MEETING

Classified By: P/E Chief Jennifer Harhigh for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶1. (C) On July 2, Russian Ambassador to Burma Mikhail Mgeladze traveled to Nay Pyi Taw with instructions to lobby the regime to permit a meeting between UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK). During our July 4 reception, Mgeladze told the Charge he went in at "a very senior level," and the response was the same as Senior General Than Shwe later told the SYG: the regime would like to accommodate such a meeting, but that would be interfering with ASSK's ongoing trial. When pressed about his Nay Pyi Taw interlocutor, Mgeladze said, "MOFA, but the Minister was not available." Mgeladze suggested that Moscow's tasking was the result of a request from Ambassador Rice to Russia's UN PermRep. When Charge observed that the regime, in its responses to the SYG, had missed another opportunity to improve relations with the outside world, Mgeladze proposed that, "with us now working together" on Burma, "we may see better news within the next few weeks."

Comment

¶2. (C) Russia has exceptional access in Nay Pyi Taw, including to top military leaders; and Mgeladze has been the most outspoken dip-corps defender of the regime's policies, including its human rights record, during dip-corps sessions with visiting UN officials such as Special Representative Gambari and Human Rights Rapporteur Ojea-Quintana. In May, when the regime allowed embassies to observe a session of the ASSK trial and authorized three foreign COMs (the Dean of the DipCorps (Singapore), the ASEAN Chair (Thailand), and the UNSC Chair (Russia)) to meet with ASSK, Mgeladze didn't bother to participate. He sent a second secretary. Thus, his delivery of a demarche regarding ASSK was unusual, though he did aim lower than he might have, only within MOFA. It was a particular surprise to hear him suggest Russia and the U.S. are now "working together" on Burma issues. While our personal relations in Rangoon have been cordial, it would be a considerable stretch to suggest that, up to now, we have been on the same policy page here.

